NORTH DAKOTA CROP, LIVESTOCK & WEATHER REPORT

North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service
Cooperating With:
NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE,
FARM SERVICE AGENCY,
ND AG WEATHER NETWORK (NDAWN) and
UND AEROSPACE REGIONAL WEATHER INFORMATION CENTER

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For Month Ending: February 6, 2005
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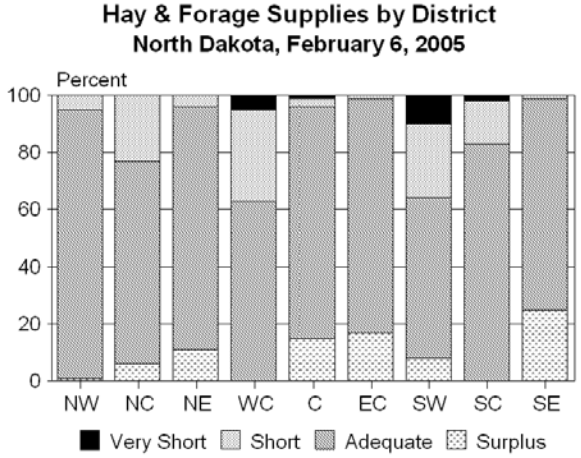
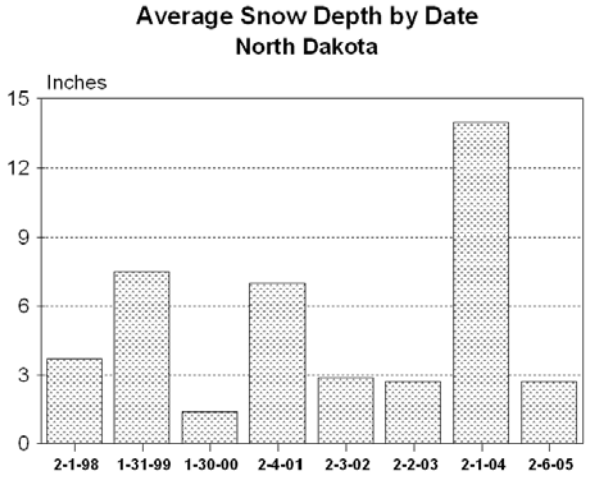
General: Below normal temperatures dominated the first three weeks of January while precipitation was generally near to below average across the state, according to North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. However, temperatures warmed the last week of January into the first week of February as temperatures averaged 10-20 degrees above the seasonal average. The mild weather late in the month, combined with reduced snow cover, made the month of January a relatively easy period for livestock and roads. Producers were moving livestock to market with favorable livestock prices. Grain marketing increased as the weather warmed. On average, statewide, there were 2.7 inches of snow cover on February 6, compared to 14.0 inches last year on February 1. The northeast district reported the most snow cover with an average of 8.4 inches followed by 4.0 inches in the north central district. Both the southwest and south central districts reported no snow cover.

County and secondary roads were rated 92 percent open, 6 difficult and 2 closed to travel. Road conditions were 82 percent dry, 11 icy, 4 drifted and 3 muddy.

Crops: As of February 6, snow cover protection for alfalfa was rated 71 percent poor, 24 adequate and 5 excellent. This compares to 1 percent poor, 57 adequate and 42 percent excellent on February 1 a year ago. Winter wheat producers were concerned with the reduced snow cover.

Livestock: Mild weather conditions during the end of January and the first week of February helped maintain feed resources. Cattle conditions were rated 3 percent poor, 10 fair, 75 good and 12 excellent. Sheep conditions were rated 1 percent very poor, 4 poor, 11 fair, 72 good and 12 excellent. Hay and forage supplies were rated 3 percent very short, 14 short, 74 adequate and 9 surplus.





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N.D. Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA ▪ P.O. Box 3166 ▪ Fargo, ND 58108 ▪ 701-239-5306
E-mail: nass-nd@nass.usda.gov ▪ Internet: http://www.nass.usda.gov/nd/

ND AG STATISTICS SERVICE
PO BOX 3166
FARGO ND 58108-3166

CROP WEATHER

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Weather: Unlike the previous month, January 2005 brought colder than average temperatures across North Dakota. Temperatures were coldest in the northeast part of the state, where the heaviest snow pack was present. Precipitation was generally near to below average across the state, with the exception of areas in the southeast, which saw above average precipitation. A significant winter storm moved across the state on the 1st of the month, dropping several inches of snow in the northern areas. Arctic air moved in behind the storm system, keeping temperatures below seasonal normals for the first week of the month. Grand Forks set a new record low on the 5th at -39 degrees. A weak storm system moved across the state on the 12th, dropping minor snow amounts. A major arctic outbreak followed the storm as the jet stream shifted south out of Canada. For the period of the 13th-17th, many locations across the state saw temperatures below zero for daytime maximum temperatures. Another significant storm brought light snow and very windy conditions across the state on the 21st, prompting blizzard warnings to be issued for a large portion of the state. Temperatures warmed nicely for the last week of the month, as the jet stream shifted to a more east-west orientation off of the Pacific Ocean. Temperatures averaged 10-20 degrees above seasonal normals across the state.

Outlook, February: The outlook for February for the Northern Plains calls for temperatures to be slightly above seasonal normals. Precipitation should be about normal for the state. The pattern that developed in late January looks to continue through the first half of February. The region will be under a split jet stream pattern. The southern branch of the jet stream will remain well south of the state, keeping any active weather confined to the Southern Plains and the Gulf Coast States. The northern branch will remain in Canada, keeping cold artic air from invading the United States. This will result in temperatures above seasonal normals along with little or no precipitation through the middle of the month. An increasing probability of precipitation will occur for the latter part of the month as the northern branch of the jet stream will become more active and shift south across the state. A return to below or near normal temperatures also looks probable for the last week of the month.

TEMPERATURE, January 1-31, 2005

District & Stations	Temperature			
	High	Low	Average	Depart/Norm 1/
	(Degrees F)			
NORTHWEST	43	-32	5	-3
Bowbells	NA	NA	NA	NA
Williston	45	-33	6	-3
Mohall	42	-32	3	-5
Minot	43	-32	5	-2
NORTH CENTRAL	37	-38	1	-3
Baker	37	-33	2	-2
Bottineau	38	-44	-1	-3
Rugby	NA	NA	NA	NA
NORTHEAST	36	-37	0	-5
Cando	38	-40	0	-10
Cavalier	36	-35	0	-5
Forest River	37	-36	2	-3
Grand Forks	36	-36	1	-3
Langdon	33	-34	-1	-3
St. Thomas	34	-40	0	-5
WEST CENTRAL	47	-34	7	-3
Hazen	50	-36	8	-1
Turtle Lake	41	-34	6	-3
Watford City	49	-32	8	-5
CENTRAL	40	-36	3	-4
Carrington	39	-31	5	-1
Harvey	39	-33	4	-3
Jamestown	41	-25	7	-1
Robinson	41	-32	6	0
Streeter	41	-32	6	-2
EAST CENTRAL	38	-30	4	-2
Dazey	39	-27	5	-1
Fargo	38	-28	5	-1
Hillsboro	37	-36	2	-4
SOUTHWEST	58	-29	13	-1
Beach	56	-28	13	-1
Bowman	59	-28	14	1
Dickinson	58	-29	11	-2
Hettinger	62	-30	14	0
SOUTH CENTRAL	47	-30	10	-1
Mandan	47	-30	9	0
Linton	47	-29	10	-2
SOUTHEAST	42	-27	8	-1
Edgeley	43	-23	8	0
Oakes	43	-33	8	-1
Wyndmere	40	-27	8	-1

1/ Normal is the 1961-90 average. NA=Not Available. Weather data collected from NDAWN stations and compiled by UND Aerospace Regional Weather Information Center.